

Publication Report



Dental Statistics – NHS Fees and NHS GDS Treatments

Update of pages as at 31st March 2011

Publication date – 30th August 2011



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About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Purpose: To deliver effective national and specialist intelligence services to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland.

Mission: Better Information, Better Decisions, Better Health

Vision: To be a valued partner in improving health and wellbeing in Scotland by providing a world class intelligence service.

Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

ISD's statistical publications are currently classified as one of the following:

- National Statistics (ie assessed by the UK Statistics Authority as complying with the Code of Practice)
- National Statistics (ie legacy, still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- Official Statistics (ie still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- other (not Official Statistics)

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#).

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

Introduction

The NHS General Dental Service (GDS) is usually the first point of contact that patients have with dental treatment. Patients register with an NHS General Dentist (a "High Street dentist") to receive the full range of NHS treatment provided by independent contractor dentists working on behalf of local NHS boards. A number of salaried dentists also work in the GDS, who provide an alternative service to the contracted General Dental Practitioners, in order to meet the oral health needs of the local population.

There are two separate activities of NHS Scotland's General Dental Service being reported here: NHS General Dental Service Fees and NHS General Dental Service courses of treatment. Payments are made to GDPs for all the individual items of treatment they provide to their patients. In addition, monthly fees are authorised per patient for children registered in capitation and adults registered in continuing care. Capitation fees are paid for all patients aged under 18 and continuing care fees for all other ages. The average expenditure per head of child population and per head of adult population in each NHS Board area and region of Scotland is also published, which is derived using the following formula:

- Total item of service earnings + capitation or continuing care payments (numerator) ÷ the most recent GRO population estimate (denominator), with each variable split by children and adults.

(Allowances that may be payable to dentists are not included here.)

NHS general dental practitioners (GDPs) can provide a wide range of dental treatments to patients from a simple examination to complex surgical treatment via the Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR), which lists all the items of service that NHS GDPs can prescribe and provide to patients. Dentists refer to the SDR when treating their patients, enter the details on a claim form (GP17 and GP17O) and submit this form to Practitioner Services (Dental), where the information is processed and payment to the dentist is authorised.

Key points

NHS GDS Fees

- The average expenditure per head of adult population within NHS GDS increased by £1, from £43 in 2010 to £44 in 2011. The average expenditure per head of child population was unchanged at £62.
- The total spend on NHS GDS child and adult item of service fees and registrations for year ending 31st March 2011 was approximately £249 million, an increase of approx 3% from year ending 31st March 2010.

NHS GDS Courses of Treatment

- The number of examinations (clinical, extensive clinical, full case assessment and treatment summary) carried out by NHS GDS dentists in year ending 31st March 2011 was approximately 2.53 million, an increase of 114,872 (4.7%) from year ending 31st March 2010.
- The number of tooth extractions carried out by NHS GDS dentists increased by 2.4% from 518,685 in year ending 31st March 2010 to 531,055 in year ending 31st March 2011.
- There were increases in the number of root fillings (6%), crowns (4%) and fillings (3%) provided in year ending 31st March 2011 compared to the previous financial year.

Results and Commentary

NHS GDS Fees

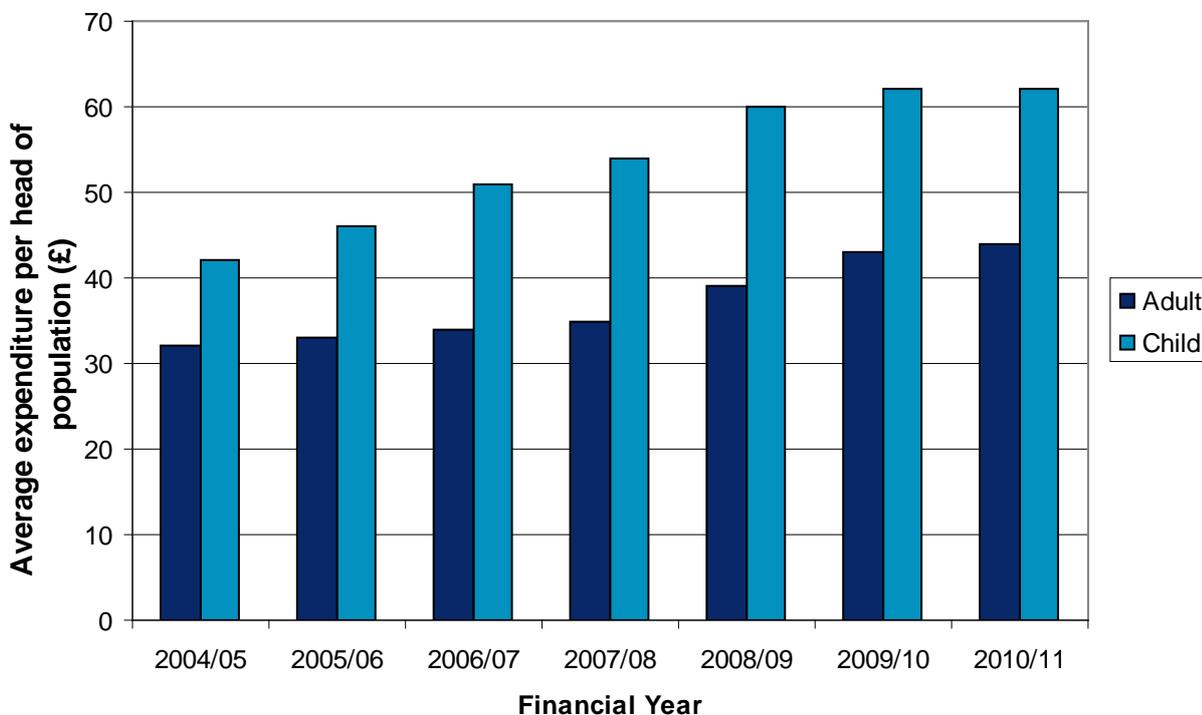
NHS GDS fees are currently analysed by the following geographical areas: National, NHS Board and region of Scotland. All analysis is published in two separate files for both adults and children as at 31st March. Links to the published files are shown below:

[Table 1: GDS Adult Dental Fees by dentist postcode; including total cost, average expenditure per head of population and Mid-year population estimates by NHS Board for the financial period 1st April to 31st March 2011.](#)

[Table 2: GDS Child Dental Fees by dentist postcode; including total cost, average expenditure per head of population and Mid-year population estimates by NHS Board for the financial period 1st April to 31st March 2011.](#)

Data are published for financial years 2004/05 to 2010/11, allowing year-on-year and short-term trend analysis. Since 31st March 2005, the average expenditure per head of adult population has increased by 38%, from £32 to £44. For children, the average expenditure per head of population over the same period has increased by 48%, from £42 to £62. The year-on-year change is illustrated in the Table 1 below:

Chart 1: Average expenditure per head of child and adult populations, from financial year 2004/05 to 2010/11.



There are many varying factors influencing the average expenditure per head of population in Scotland, including greater numbers of registered patients (through e.g. patient registration policy changes and amendments to dentist fee payment mechanisms), population trends, etc. A key policy change influencing total fees claimed by dentists has

been the introduction of non-time limited patient registrations. Prior to 1st April 2009, patient registration records lapsed after a period of 15 months if the patient did not attend the practice. The Scottish Government extended this period to 36 months one year later; “lifetime” registration was introduced on 1st April 2010.

Non-time limited patient registration contributes to the overall number of patients registered with an NHS dentist and, a corresponding increase in capitation and continuing care payments made. However, these payments are subject to time limit of 3 years since the patient last attended the practice, when the fee reduces to 20% of the original. When the patient who had not attended within the 3-year period then returns (and a claim form is submitted by the dentist), the relevant fee reverts to the 100% rate of payment. The national rate of fees claimed has increased for both children and adults; however the rate of increase from 2009/10 to 2010/11 compared with previous year-on-year changes has slowed to the lowest level in the previous seven financial years. NHS Dumfries & Galloway and NHS Highland showed the greatest increase in the average expenditure per head of adult population in Scotland (both increasing by £5), while NHS Lanarkshire showed the greatest decrease (by £1). All other boards recorded a small increase. NHS Borders and NHS Dumfries & Galloway recorded the largest actual increase in the average expenditure per head of child population in Scotland, showing a £10 and £2 increase respectively. NHS Grampian and NHS Orkney each recorded the largest actual decrease, of £4.

NHS GDS courses of treatment

There were approx 3.8 million courses of NHS GDS (Salaried and Non-Salaried) courses of treatment carried out during 2010/11, an increase of 3.9% from year ending March 2009/10 (3.69 million). Adults (patients aged 18+) accounted for 88% of the courses of treatment carried out in 2010/11.

Table 1: Number of GDS courses of treatment financial years 2009-2011.

Financial Year	Total number of GDS courses of treatment	Courses of treatment Children	Courses of treatment Adults
2008/2009	3,548,553	440,714	3,107,839
2009/2010	3,686,457	434,168	3,252,289
2010/2011	3,830,051	426,626	3,403,425

Source: ISD, MIDAS

1. A course of treatment is defined as at least one SDR fee code being claimed on a GP17 or GP17 (O) form.
2. Children are defined as <18 years old and adults as 18+ years.

Of the 3,830,051 courses of treatment carried out in year ending March 2011, 3.6% were for GDS Orthodontic treatment. Children accounted for 95% of the Orthodontic courses of treatment.

Table 2: Number of GDS Orthodontic courses of treatment financial years 2009-2011.

Financial Year	Total number of GDS Orthodontic courses of treatment	Children - Courses of Orthodontic treatment	Adult - Courses of Orthodontic treatment
2008/2009	133,651	128,625	5,026
2009/2010	136,578	130,651	5,927
2010/2011	138,035	131,400	6,635

Source: ISD, MIDAS

1. A course of Orthodontic treatment is defined as at least one fee code being claimed on a GP17 (O) form.
2. Children are defined as <18 years old and adults as 18+ years.

Other detailed findings regarding NHS GDS treatments in 2010/11 are as follows:

- The number of dental examinations (Item 1a) increased by 4.7% on March 2010.
- The number of teeth filled increased across Scotland by 3.3%. NHS Dumfries and Galloway and NHS Highland observed the biggest increases, 11.1% and 18.5% respectively.
- The number of teeth extracted increased across Scotland by 2.4%. NHS Dumfries and Galloway and NHS Shetland observed the biggest increases, 19.2% and 13% respectively.
- The number of radiographs (x-rays) taken in year end March 2011 increased across Scotland by 7.2%. NHS Dumfries and Galloway and NHS Borders observed the biggest increases, 53.6% and 23.4% respectively.

Glossary

SDR	Statement of Dental Remuneration.
GDS	General Dental Service.
MIDAS	Management Information & Dental Accounting System.
Salaried	Salaried dentists and community dentists both work in the salaried primary care dental sector and are employed by NHS boards.
Non-salaried	Non-salaried dentists are independent contractor dentists working on behalf of local NHS boards.

List of Tables

Table No.	Name	Time period	File & size
1	GDS Adult Dental Fees by dentist postcode; including total cost, average expenditure per head of population and Mid-year population estimates by NHS Board for the financial period 1st April to 31st March 2011.	March 2011	Excel [88kb]
2	GDS Child Dental Fees by dentist postcode; including total cost, average expenditure per head of population and Mid-year population estimates by NHS Board for the financial period 1st April to 31st March 2011.	March 2011	Excel [84kb]
3	All SDR item of service treatment claims, Scotland; year ending 31st March 2011.	March 2011	Excel [414kb]
4	All SDR item of service treatment claims, Scotland; year ending 31st March 2011.	March 2011	Excel [708kb]

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Further Information

Further information can be found on the [ISD website](#)

Appendix

A1 – Background Information

Free dental examinations were extended to all NHS patients from 1 April 2006.

A2 – Publication Metadata (including revisions details)

Metadata Indicator	Description
Publication title	NHS GDS treatments and GDS fees
Description	This release provides information on NHS GDS treatments and fees for year ending 31 st March 2011.
Theme	Dental Health Care
Topic	Treatments and Fees
Format	Excel workbooks
Data source	MIDAS
Date that data are acquired	4 th July 2011
Release date	30 th August 2011
Frequency	Annual
Timeframe of data and timeliness	Data as at 31 st March 2011
Accessibility	It is the policy of ISD Scotland to make its web sites and products accessible according to published guidelines .
Value type and unit of measurement	NHS GDS Treatments: Number, cost and rate of individual treatments. NHS GDS fees: Cost of fees paid to dentists.
Disclosure	The ISD protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol is followed.
Official Statistics designation	National Statistics
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	Awaiting assessment by UK Statistics Authority
Last published	31 st August 2010
Next published	28 th August 2012
Help email	NSS.ISD-Dental-Info@nhs.net
Date of first publication	31 st March 2003
Date form completed	11 th August 2011

A3 – Early Access details (including Pre-Release Access)

Pre-Release Access

Under terms of the "Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008", ISD are obliged to publish information on those receiving Pre-Release Access ("Pre-Release Access" refers to statistics in their final form prior to publication). The standard maximum Pre-Release Access is five working days. Shown below are details of those receiving standard Pre-Release Access and, separately, those receiving extended Pre-Release Access.

Standard Pre-Release Access:

Scottish Government Health Department
NHS Board Chief Executives
NHS Board Communication leads

Extended Pre-Release Access

Extended Pre-Release Access of 8 working days is given to a small number of named individuals in the Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division). This Pre-Release Access is for the sole purpose of enabling that department to gain an understanding of the statistics prior to briefing others in Scottish Government (during the period of standard Pre-Release Access).

Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division)